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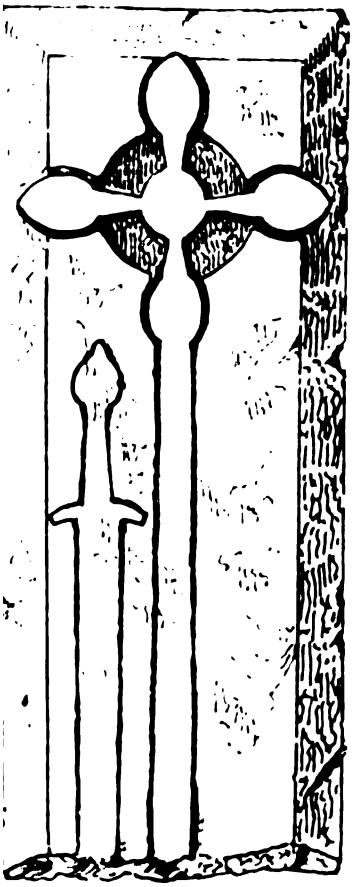

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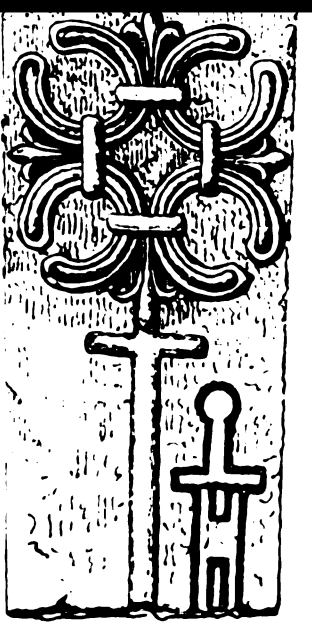

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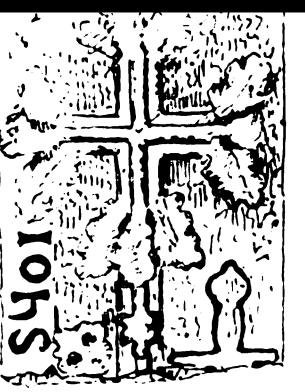

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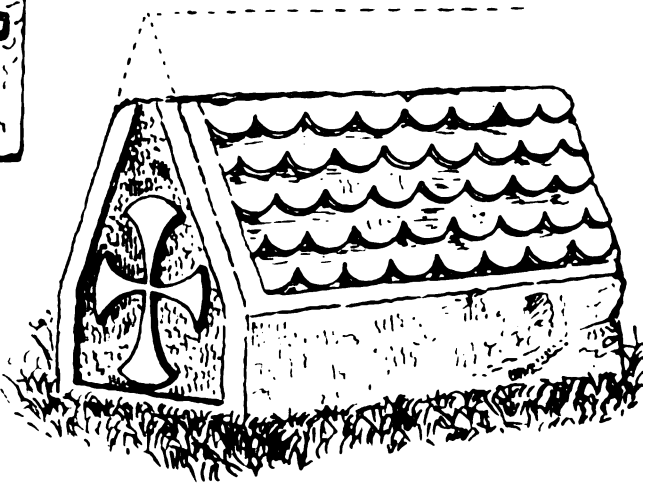

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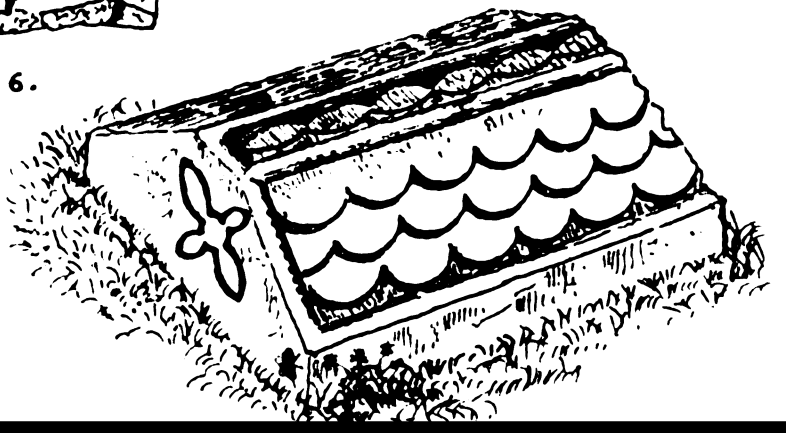

The sepulchral slabs, grave covers, headstone crosses, ...

Charles Clement Hodges

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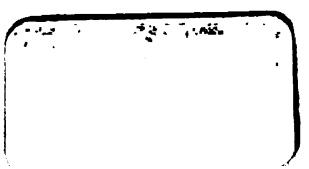

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The Sepulchral Slabs, Grave Covers, Headstone Crosses, and Semi-Effigial Monuments of the Middle Ages, now remaining in the County of Durham.

By Charles Clement Hodges, Architect,

Member of "The Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle-upon-Tyne;" "The Durham and Northumberland Architectural and Archæological Society;" "The Yorkshire Archæological and Topographical Association;" and of "The National Society for Preserving the Memorials of the Dead."

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COCKFIELD AND CONISCLIFFE	4 PLATES.
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TO BE COMPLETED IN SIX PARTS.

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Secondly, the monumental brasses. Of these but very few remain in the two northern counties, that of Roger Thornton and his wife Agnes, in All Saints' Church, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, being the finest. Durham Cathedral has been robbed of every example; but many matrices remain there, as they do in many of the churches,

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able to complete this work
which has been too long on hand
here so little encouragement is
accorded to such works. Thank
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Yours truly,
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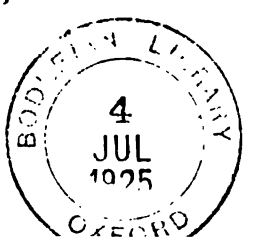
and testify that the northern counties once contained a large number of these beautiful memorials. The third class may include all the varying forms of the humbler kind of monuments, viz., the semi-effigies, the incised effigies, the coped or ridged, and the flat grave covers, the ornamented stone coffin-lids, and the small headstone crosses. The semi-effigy is a stone slab having a portion of a figure sculptured (as, for instance, the head and feet), while the remainder of the surface of the slab is covered with ornament, incised or in relief. It is, therefore, a compromise between a completely sculptured effigy and an incised slab, and, though not uncommon in other parts of England, I have as yet met with but two examples of this curious form of monument in the two northern counties, one being in St. Nicholas's Church, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, which is evidently to the memory of a mason. It bears a large and florid cross, on the sinister side of which is a sword, and on the dexter side a mason's axe and a mallet; the head is contained in a deeply sunk quatrefoil, while the feet appear in the richly cusped foot of the cross. The other is in the grave-yard of Durham Cathedral, and is, unfortunately, in an advanced state of decay. So also of the incised effigy. I am only aware of two examples in the district: one at Cambo, in excellent preservation, probably represents a civilian, and has no inscription; the other lies on the floor of the chantry chapel on the north side of St. Peter's Church, Bywell. It is so much worn that only a few lines of the figure and a few letters of a "black-letter" inscription are visible. Of the less costly class of monuments, grave covers, and headstone crosses, our two most northerly counties contain a very large number, many of them displaying designs of such intricacy and delicacy that they may fairly be considered worthy to take a high rank as specimens of mediæval art. In addition to their artistic value they possess a special interest as giving us an insight into the domestic manners and customs of the period, as in many instances various persons have their rank or trade indicated on their grave-stones, by some symbol or device connected with their position or occupation during life. These sculptures are very various and, are,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doubtless, accurate representations of the forms of the objects and tools then in use. Inscriptions were the exception for about the first 250 years after the Conquest, their place being supplied in some measure by these symbols, a sword being used to denote a male; a pair of shears, and sometimes a key, a female; a chalice, sometimes accompanied by a paten with 'The Host' and the hand in benediction, or a book, for a priest; a hammer and a pair of tongs for a blacksmith; a bow for an archer; a hunting horn for a forester; a fleshing knife for a butcher; a shepherd's crook for a shepherd, &c. Shields, charged with arms, are sometimes met with in addition to other objects; they occur at Bywell, Chollerton, Cockfield, Haltwhistle, and Shaftoe. That the smaller slabs do not necessarily indicate the graves of children is shown by the small but very beautiful example at St. Oswald's, Durham, bearing a chalice in relief. The variety of forms that the cross assumes on these memorials is very surprising; out of upwards of 700 examples in Northumberland and Durham no two are exactly alike, and the cross in one of its many forms appears on nearly the whole of them. Of the small headstone crosses we have not many examples; they occur at Corbridge, Chollerton, Great Stainton, Monkwearmouth, and Woodhorn.

It is to illustrate in a complete manner these interesting sepulchral memorials of a bygone age that the publication of these volumes has been undertaken, and I trust they will meet with the approval of the archæological world. At present I confine myself to the humbler class of monuments, the sepulchral slabs, grave-covers, &c.; but I hope in time to illustrate, in a worthy manner and on a large scale, the sculptured monumental effigies and brasses in Northumberland and Durham. Such a work would, however, be a serious undertaking, and necessarily costly; I have, therefore, in the mean time, decided to publish a series of plates illustrating the whole of the sepulchral slabs, &c., in the same area, and in the letterpress accompanying them to make mention of the effigies, brasses, churchyard crosses, and other objects of peculiar interest in or about the churches I may visit.

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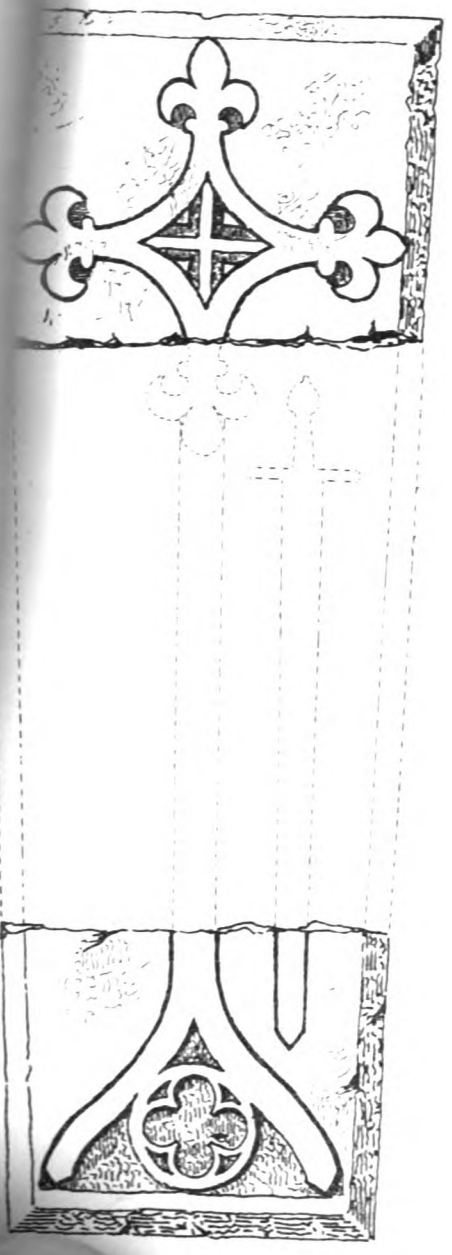

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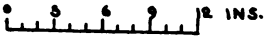

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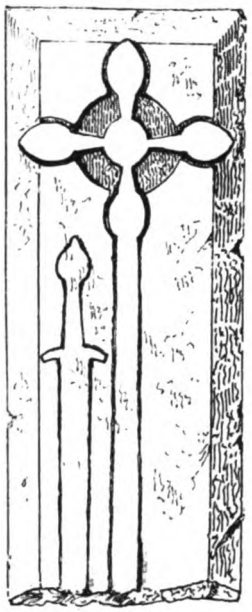

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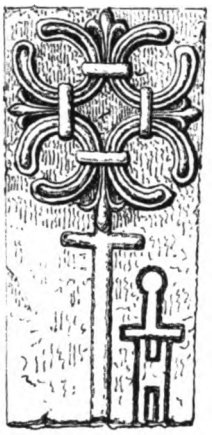

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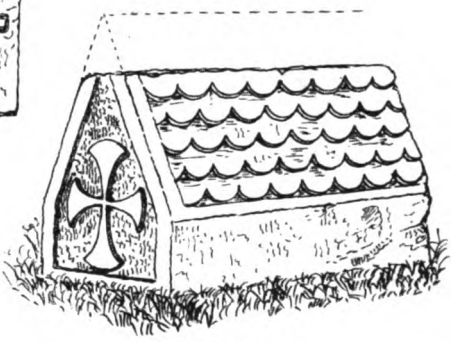

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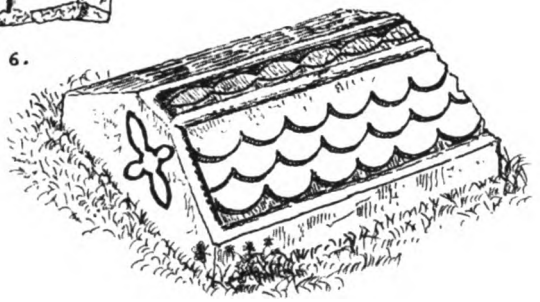

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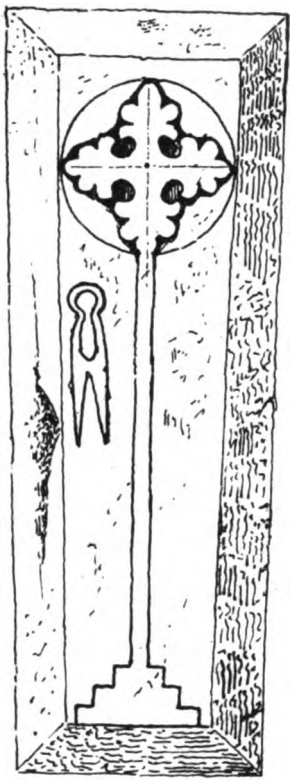

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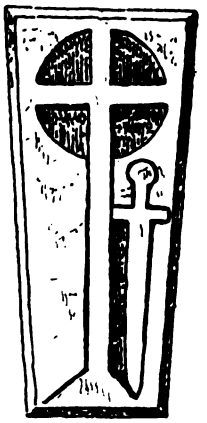

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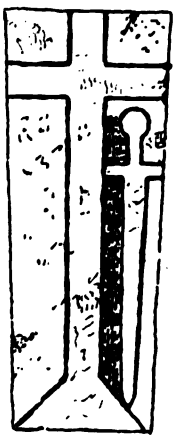

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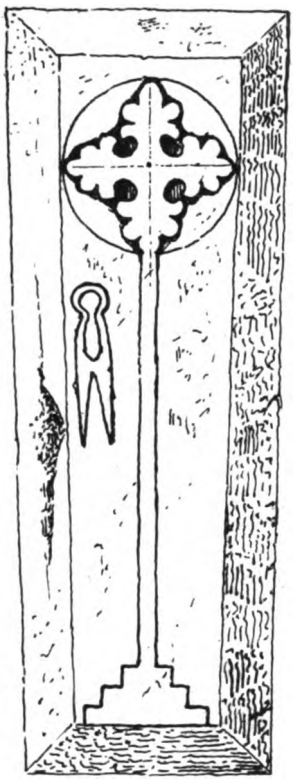

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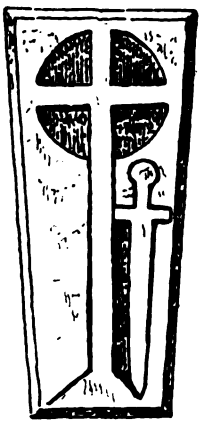

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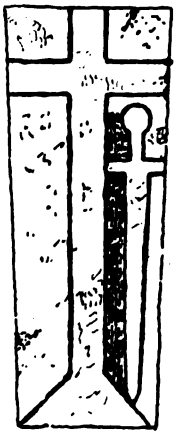

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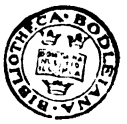

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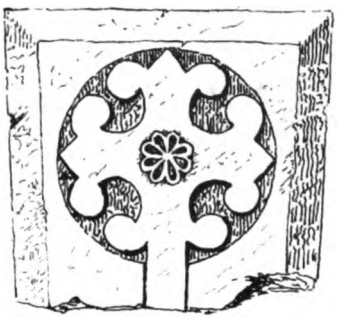

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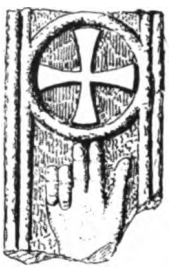

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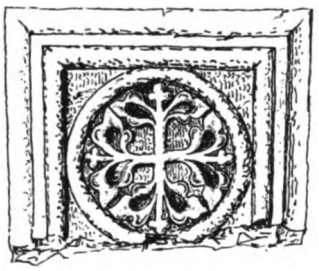

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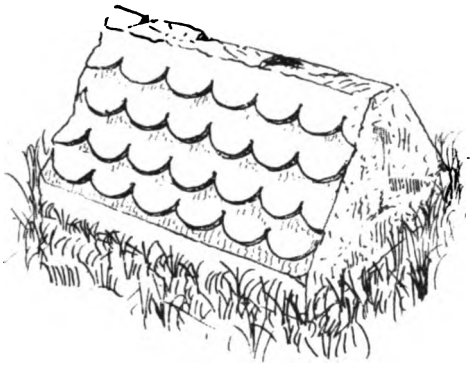

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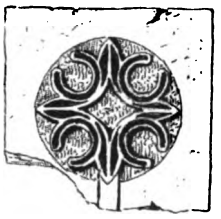

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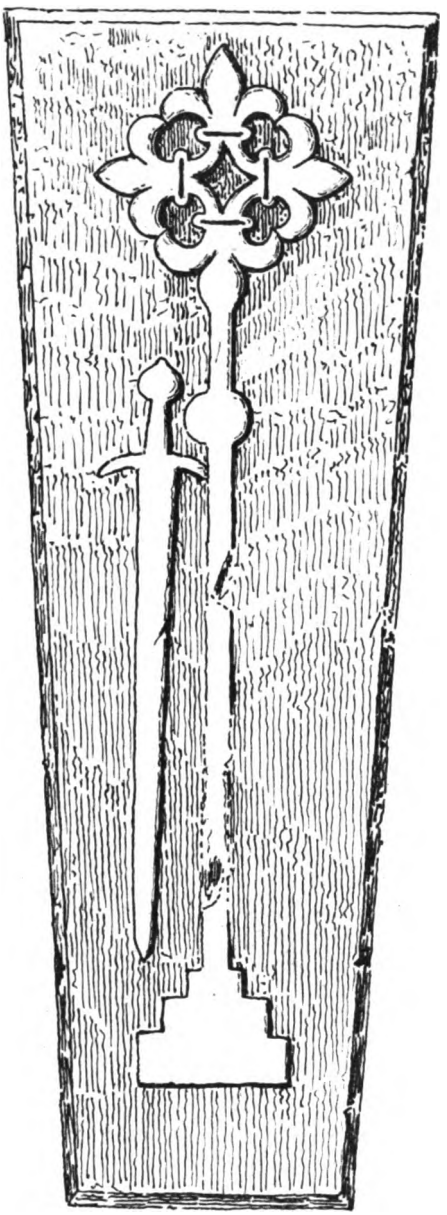

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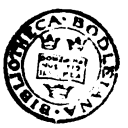

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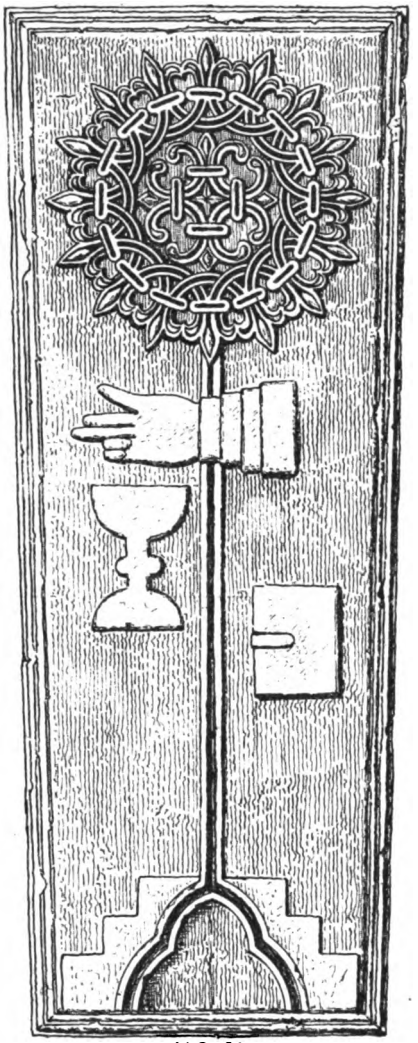

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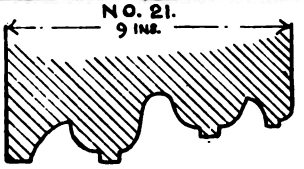

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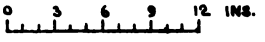

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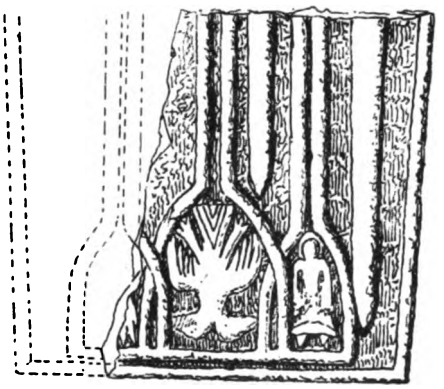

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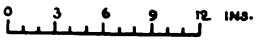

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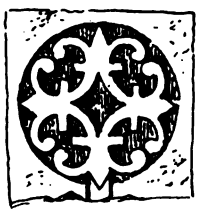

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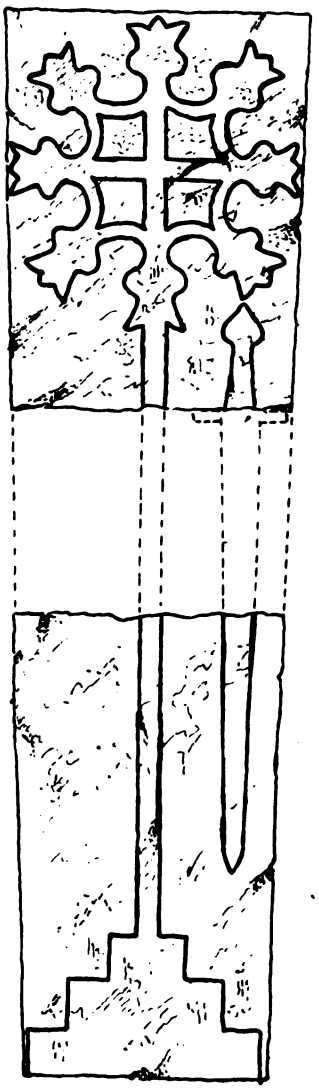

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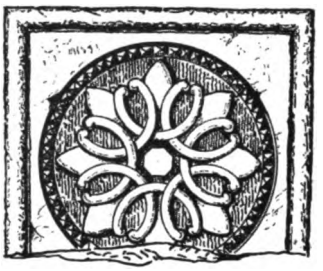

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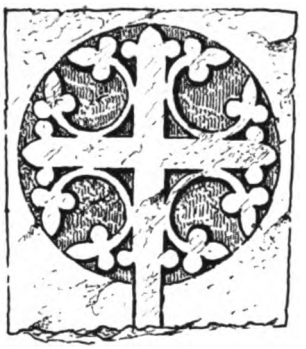

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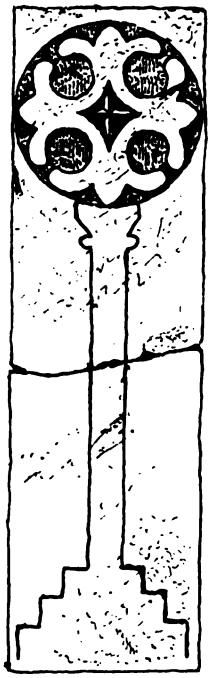

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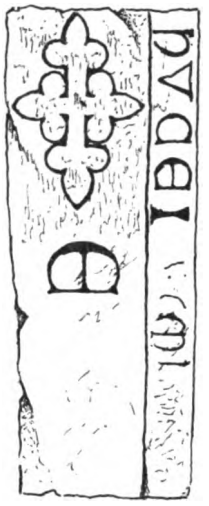

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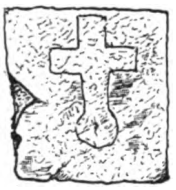

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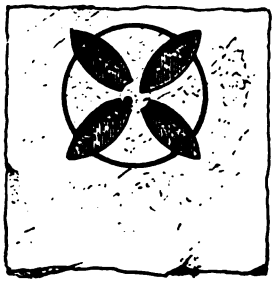

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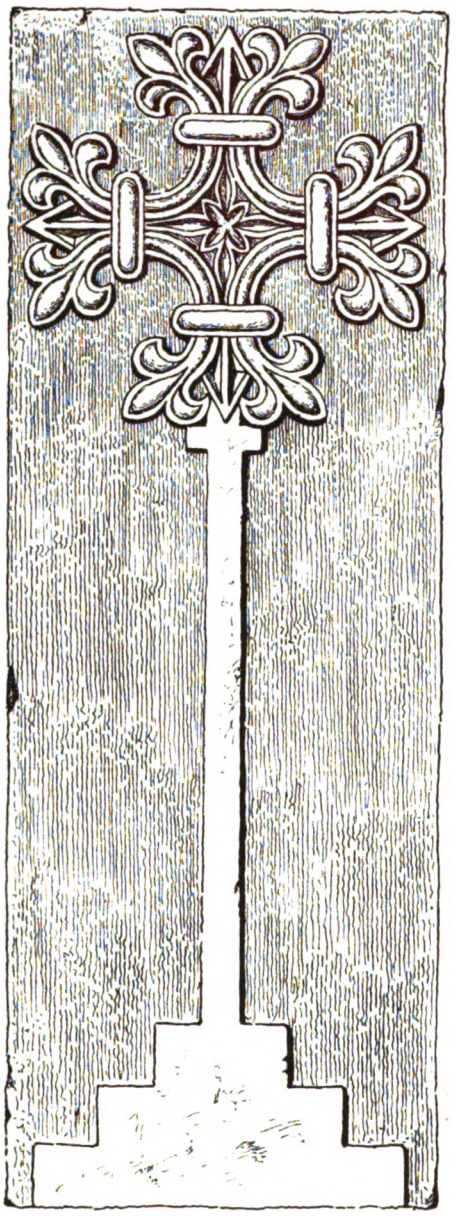

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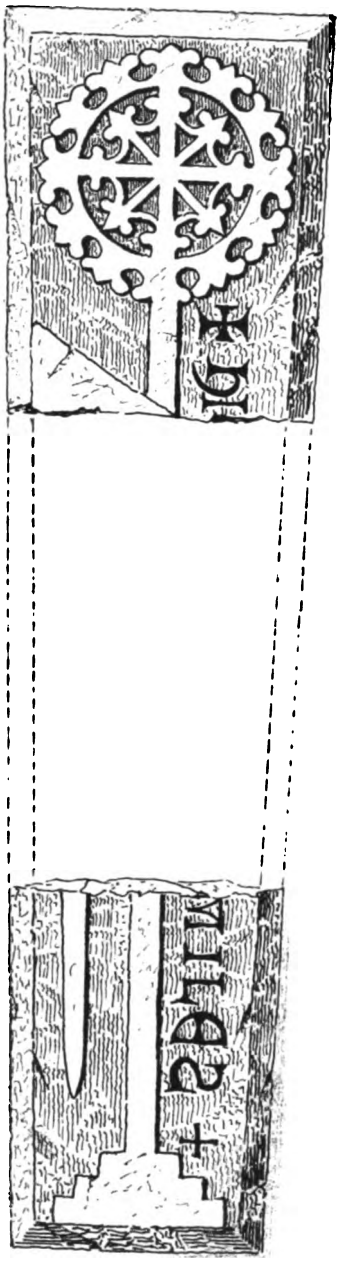

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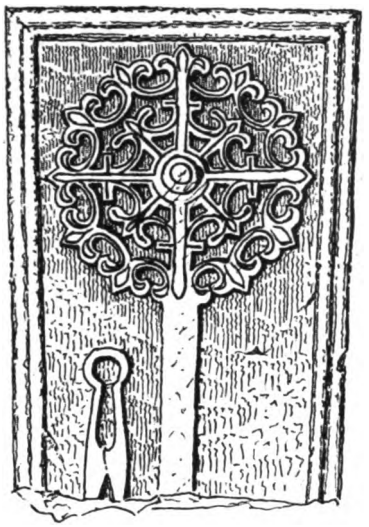

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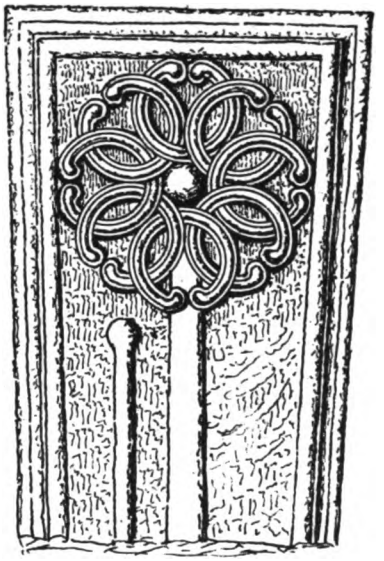

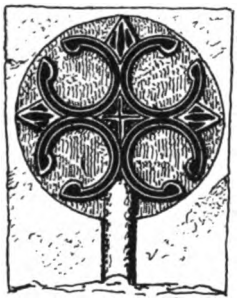

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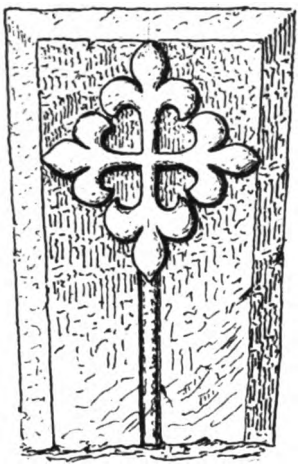

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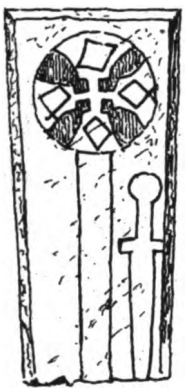

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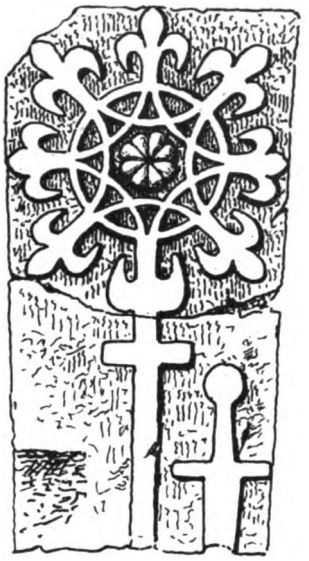

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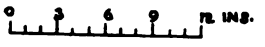

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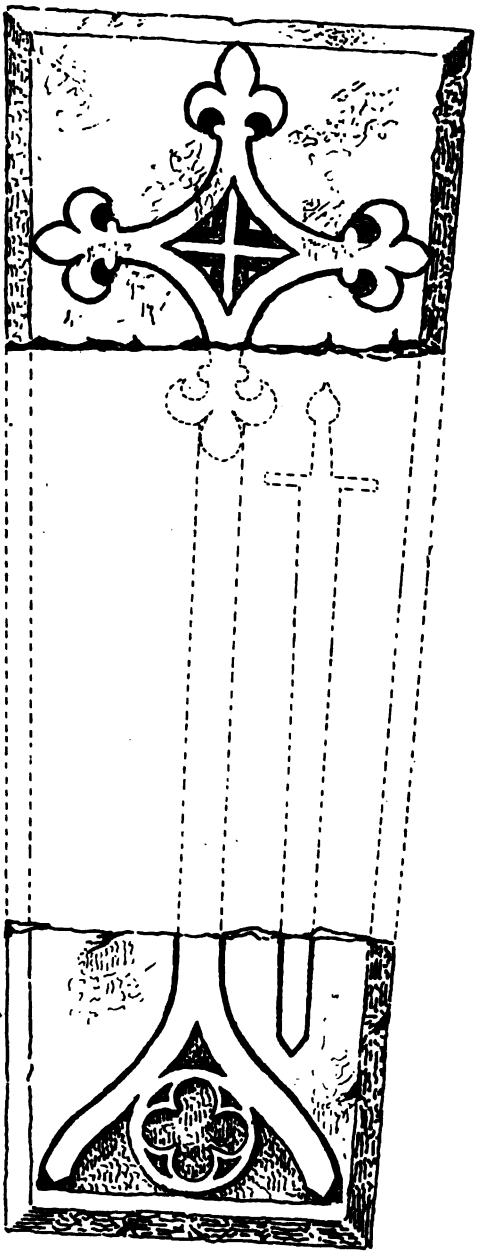

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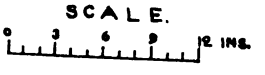

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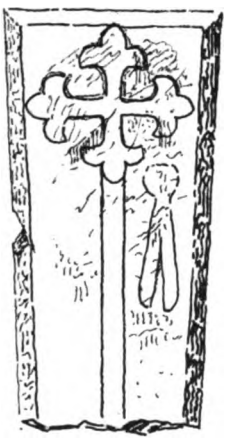

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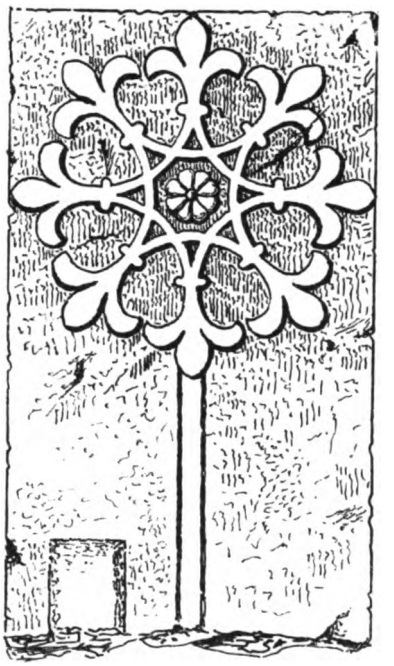

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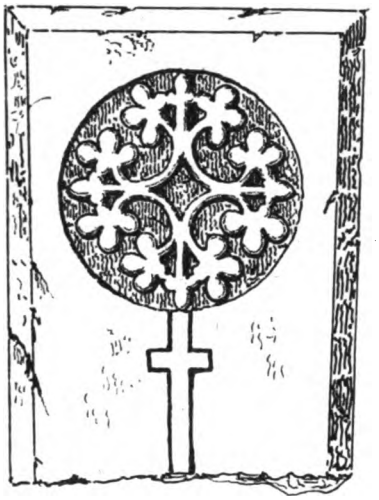

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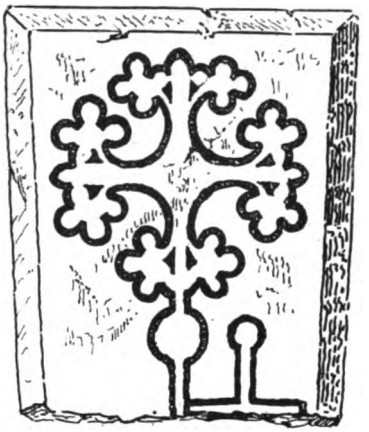

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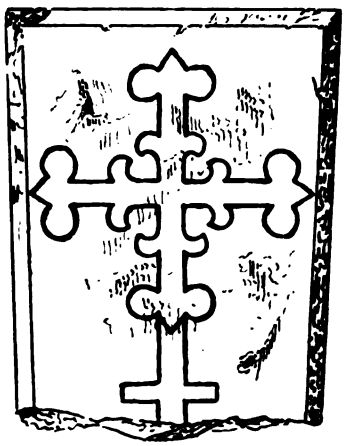

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The Sepulchral Slabs, Grave Cover Headstone Crosses, and Sem Effigial Monuments of the Midd Ages, now remaining in the Coun of Durham.

By Charles Clement Hodges, Architect,

Member of "The Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle-upon-Tyne;" "The Durham and Northumber Architectural and Archæological Society;" "The Yorkshire Archæological and Topographical Association;" and of "The National Society for Preserving the Memorials of the Dead."

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TO BE COMPLETED IN SIX PARTS.

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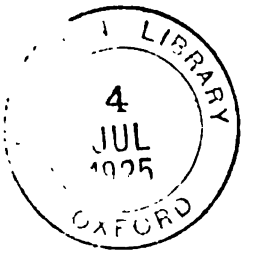
Rt. Hon. Sir Edward,
Newcastle.



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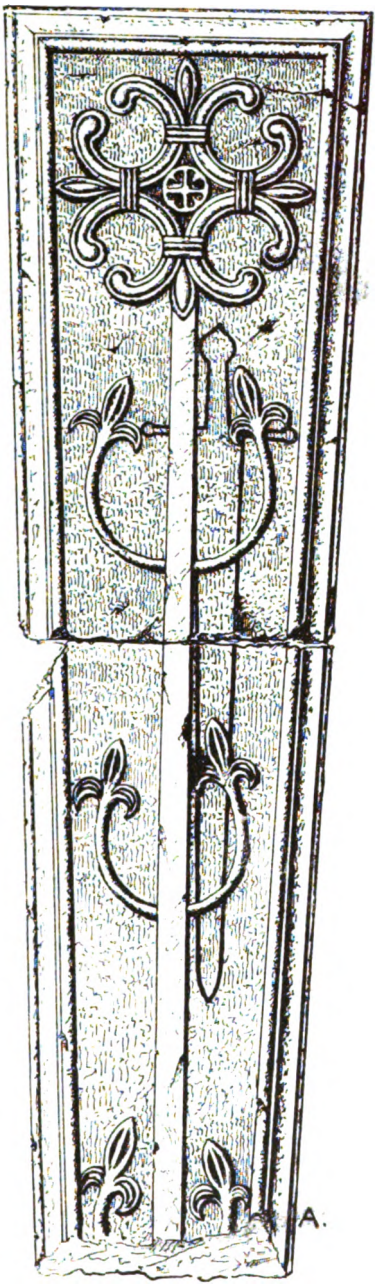

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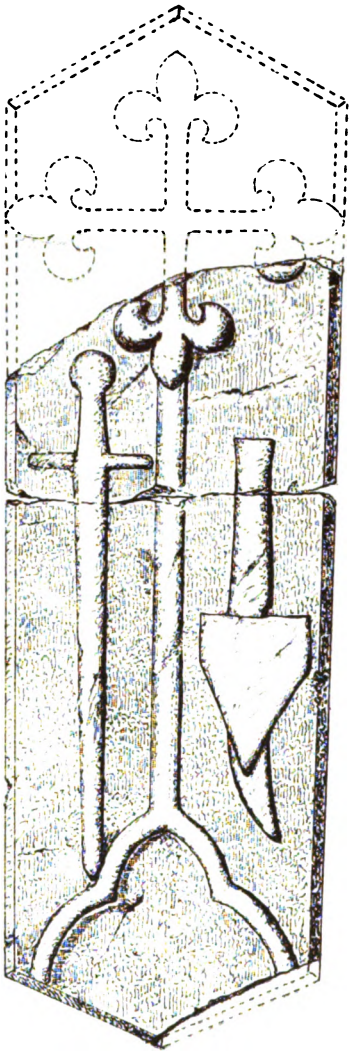

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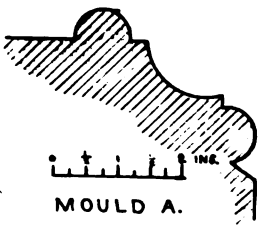

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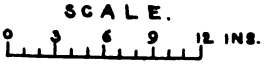

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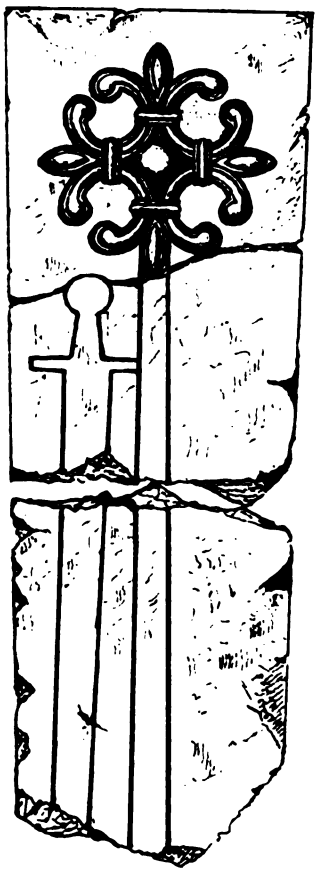

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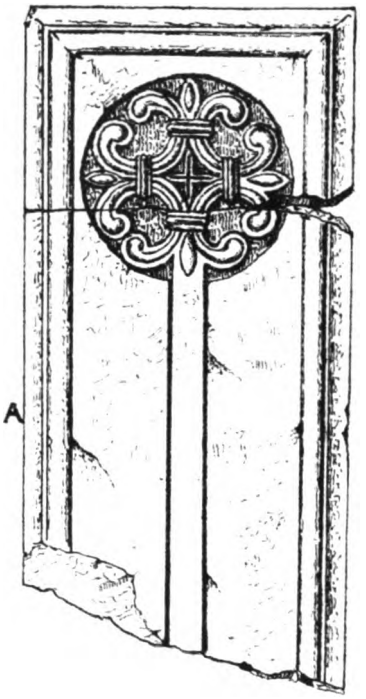

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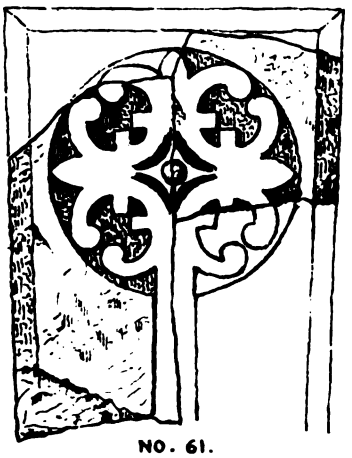

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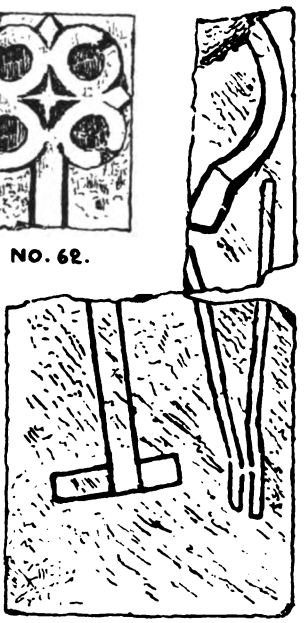

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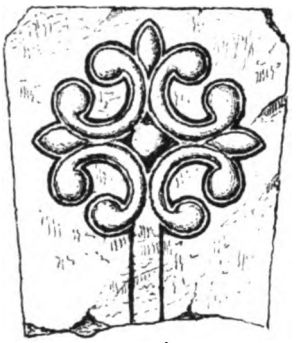

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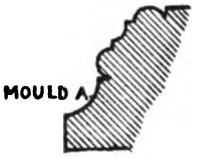

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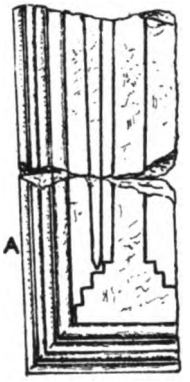

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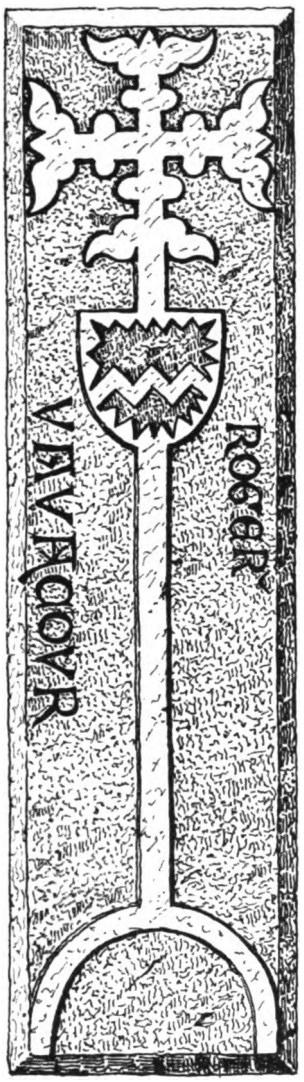

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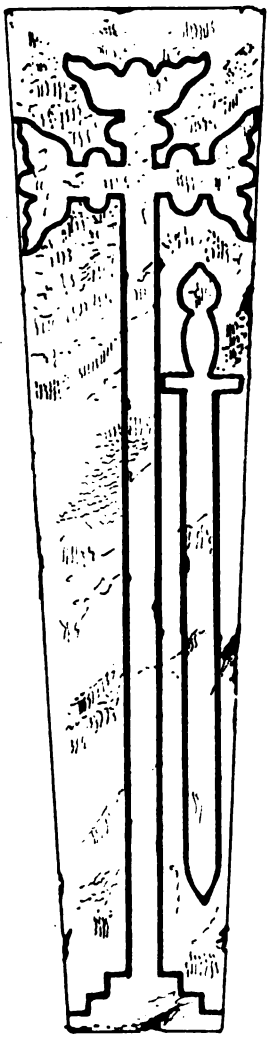

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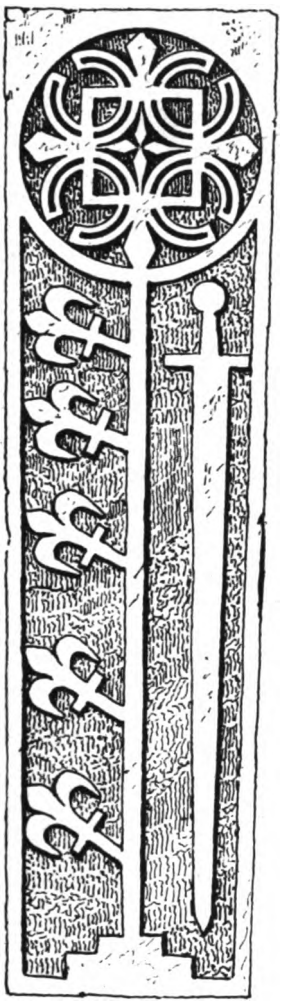

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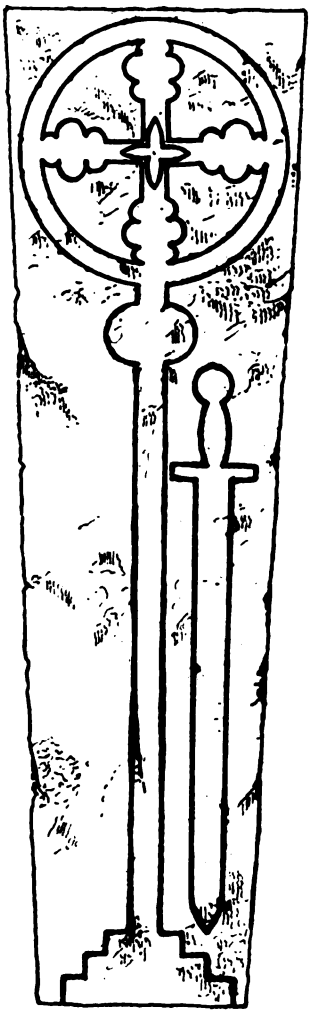

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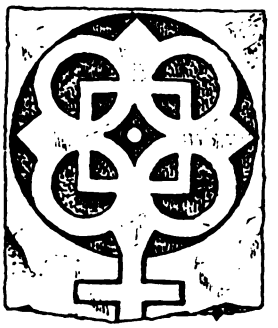

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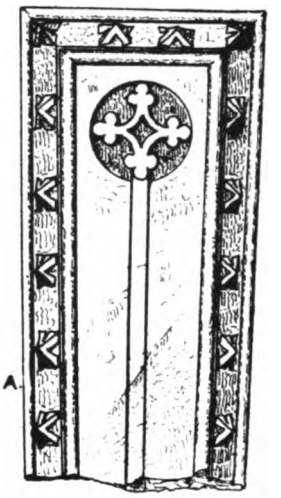

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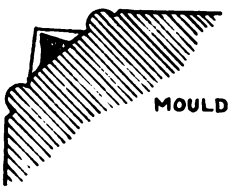

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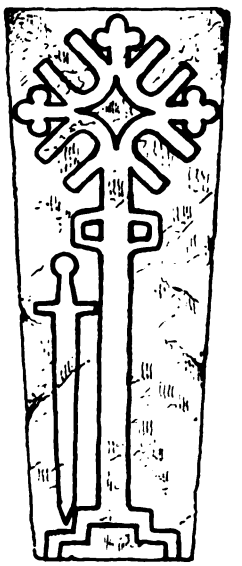

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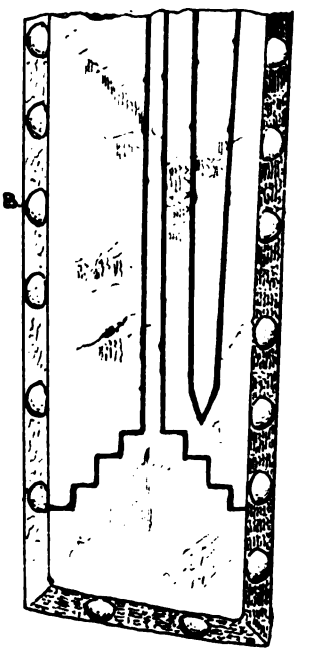

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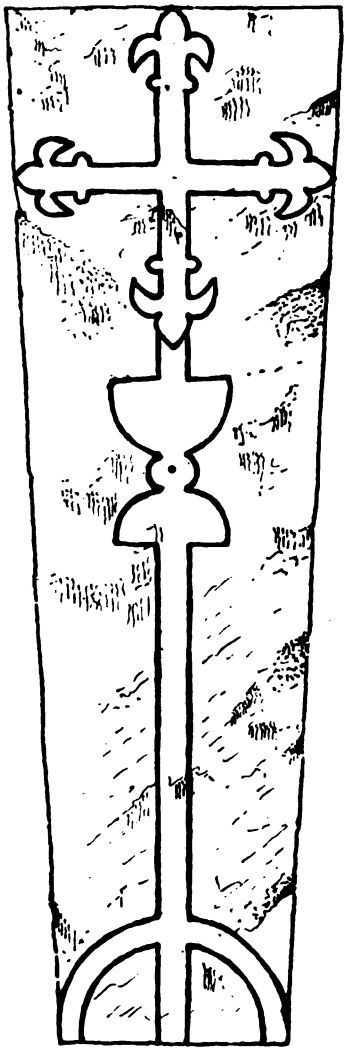

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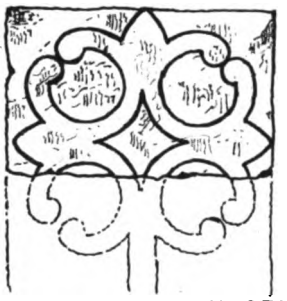

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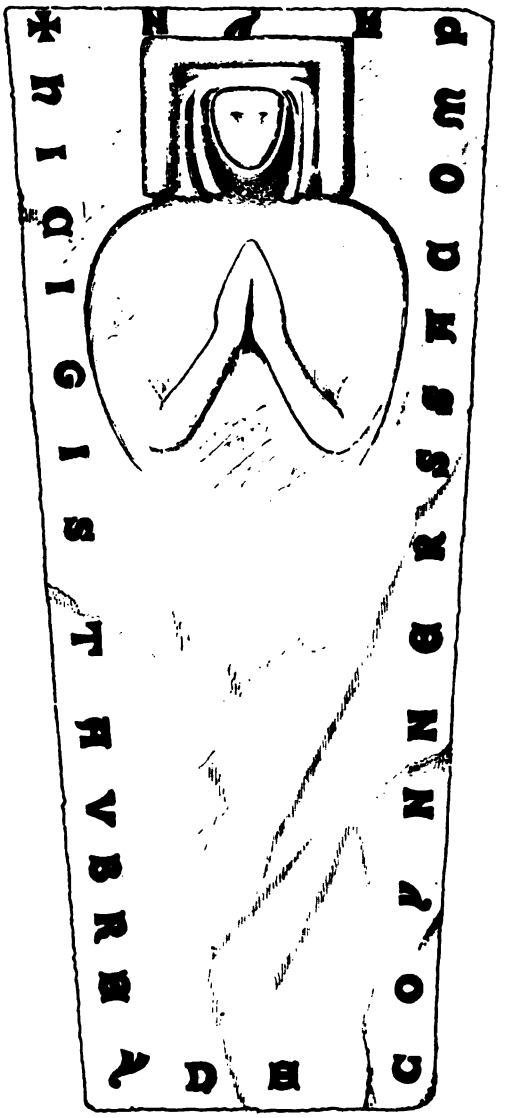

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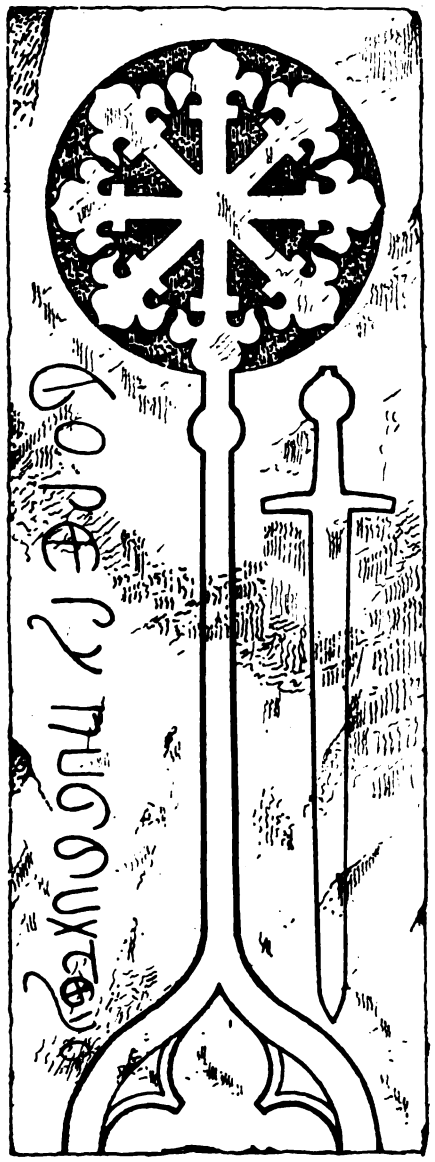

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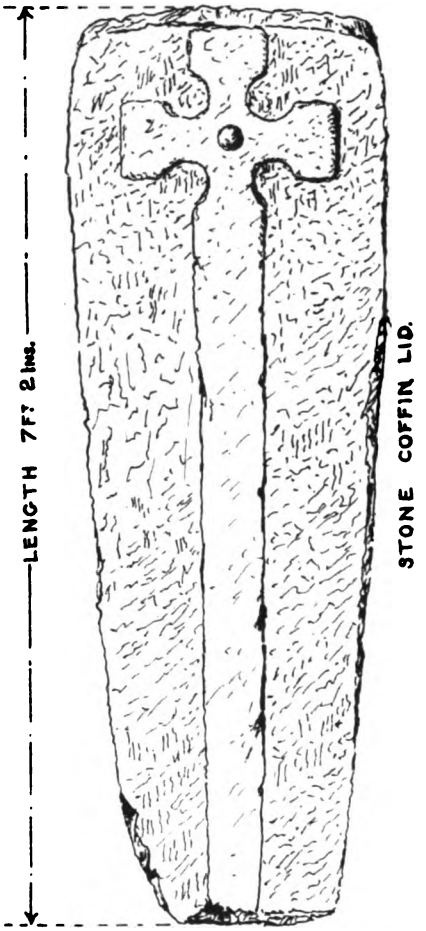

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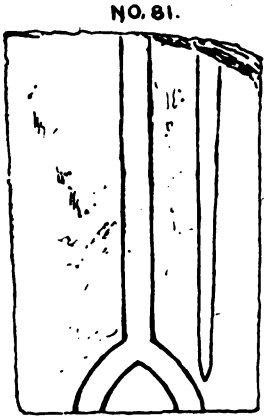

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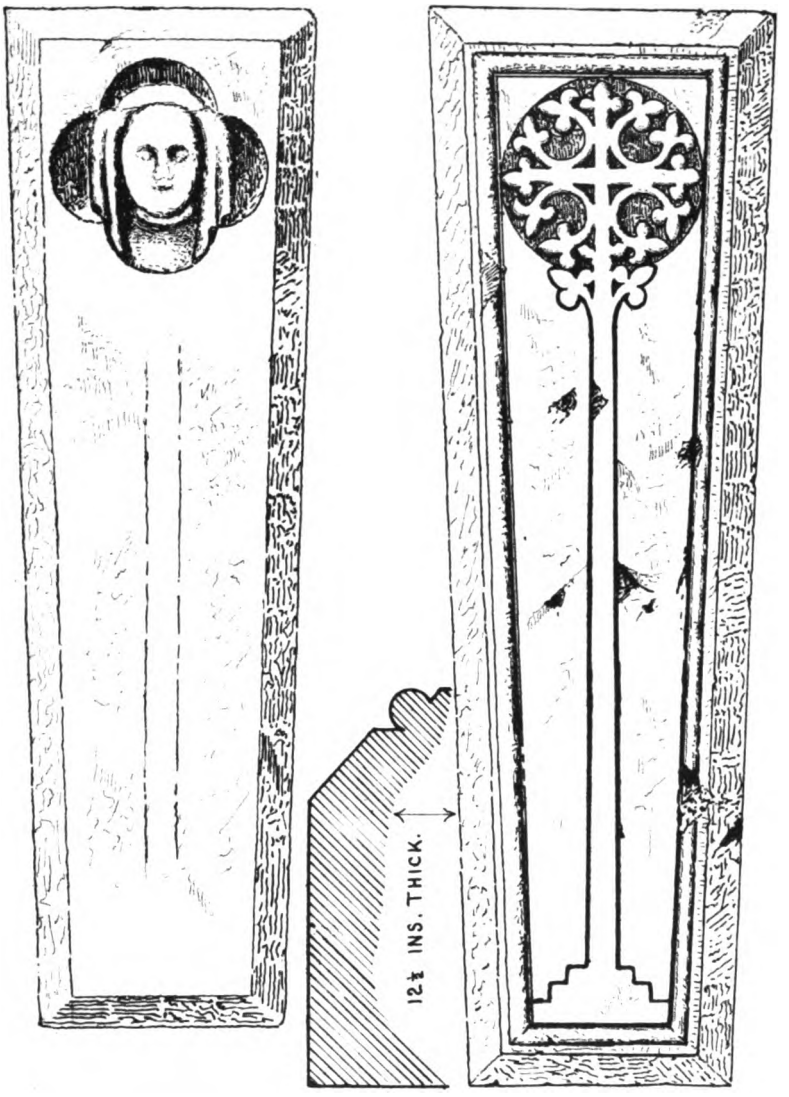
DURHAM.

CATHEDRAL YARD.



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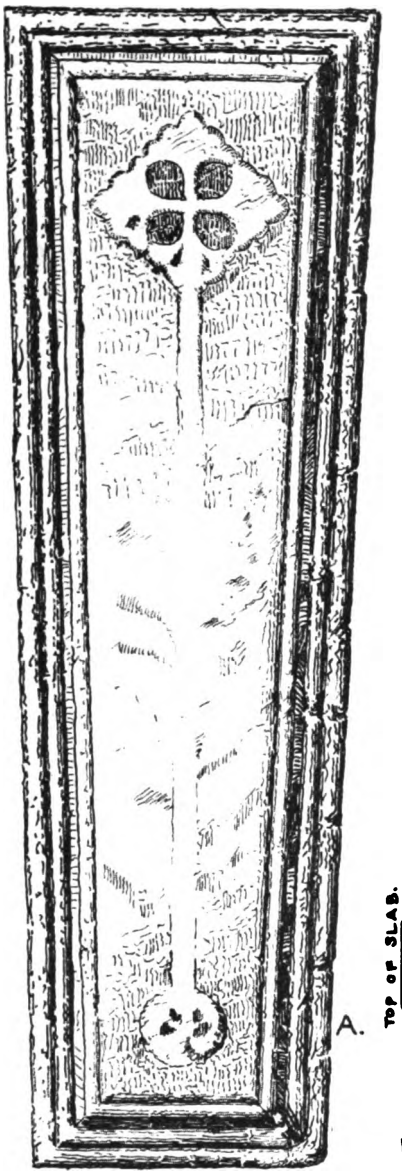
CATHEDRAL YARD.



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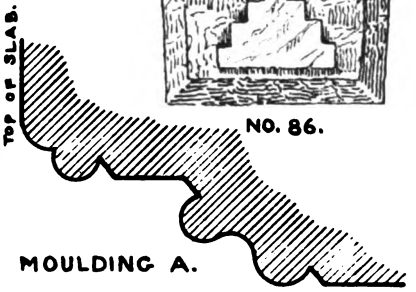

MOULDING A.

SCALE

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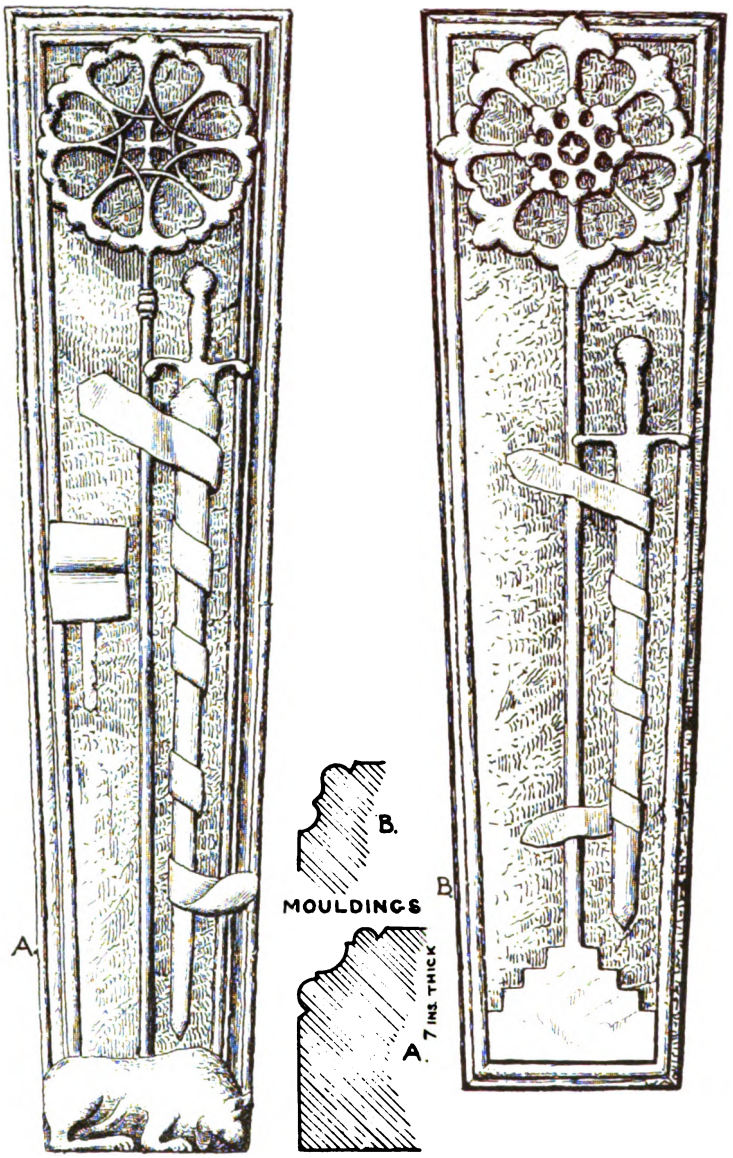
DURHAM.

CATHEDRAL YARD.



NO. 87

NO. 88.

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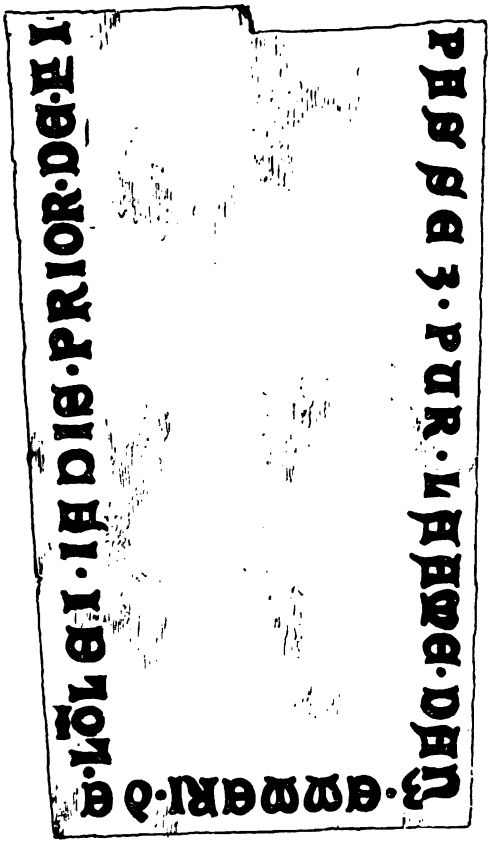
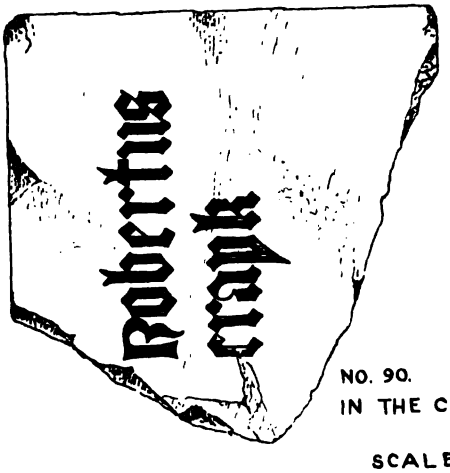


NO. 89 IN CATHEDRAL



NO. 90.

NO. 91.

IN THE CRYPT UNDER THE DORMITORY.

SCALE

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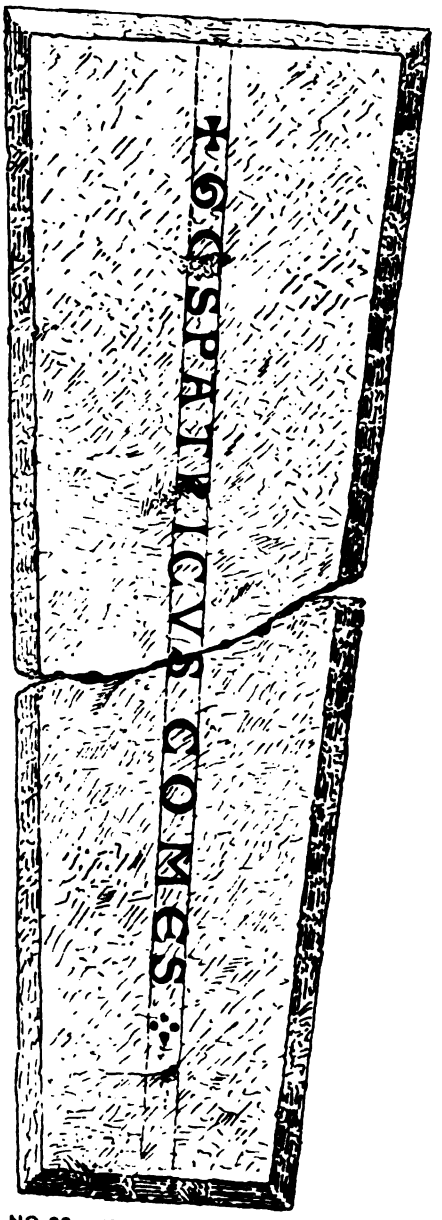
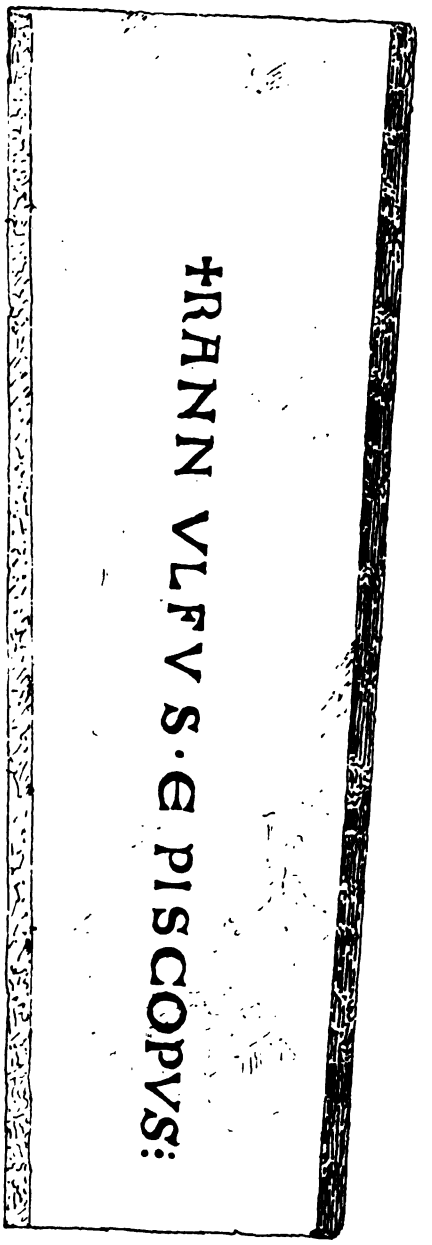
DURHAM



NO. 92. IN THE CRYPT
UNDER THE DORMITORY.



NO. 93. ON THE FLOOR
OF THE CHAPTER HOUSE.

SCALE
0 3 6 9 12 INS.

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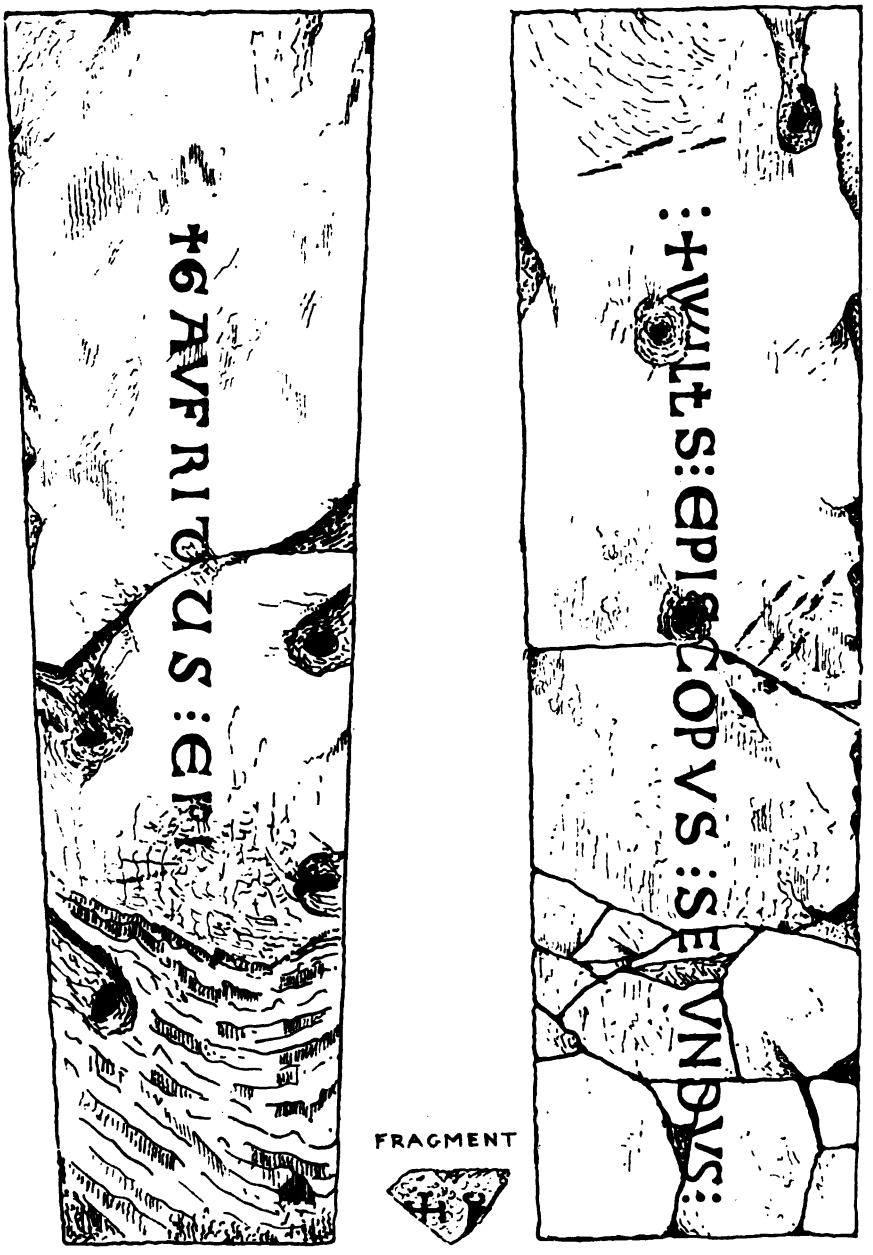
DURHAM



FRAGMENT

NO. 94. NO. 96. NO. 95.

ON THE FLOOR OF THE CHAPTER HOUSE.

SCALE

0 3 6 9 12 INS.

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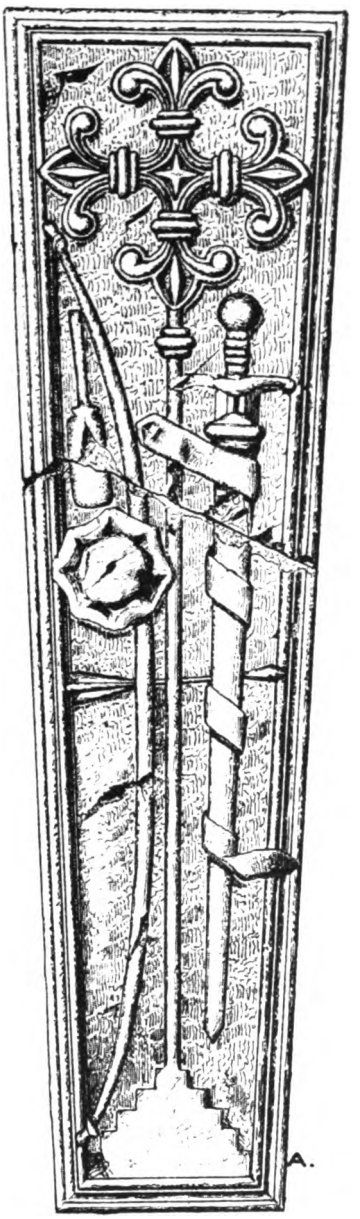
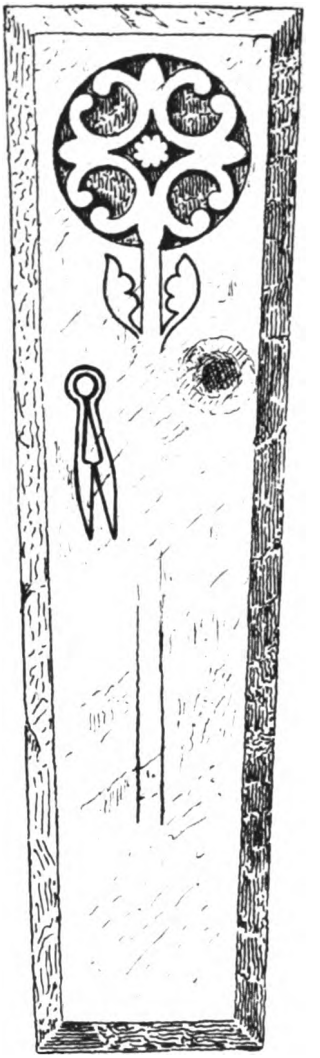
DURHAM



NO. 97.

IN THE CRYPT UNDER THE DORMITORY.



NO. 98.

MOULDING A.

SCALE

0 3 6 9 12 INS.

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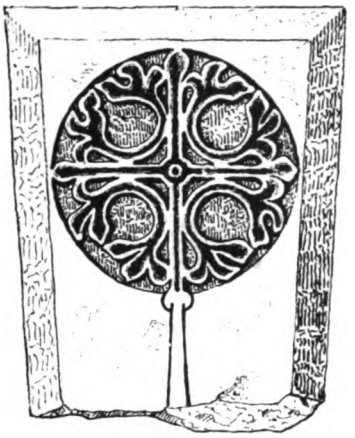
DURHAM



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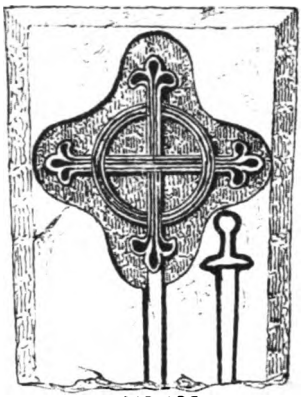

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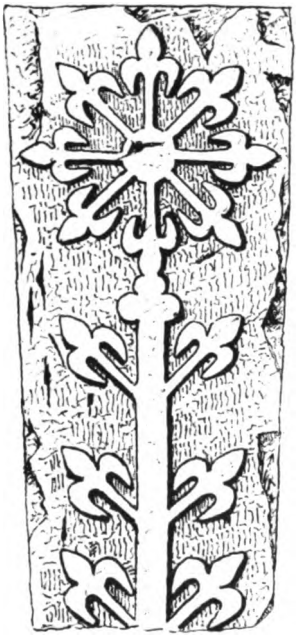

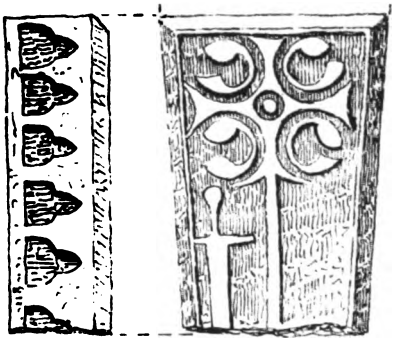

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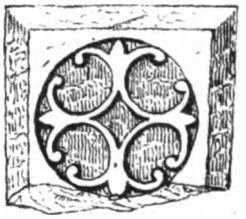

NO. 102. NO. 103. NO. 104.

IN THE CRYPT UNDER THE DORMITORY.

SCALE 0 3 6 9 12 INS.

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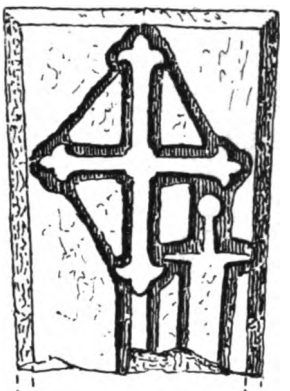

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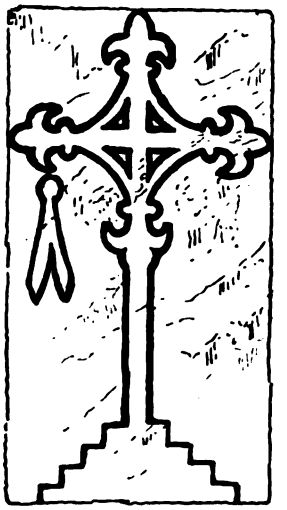

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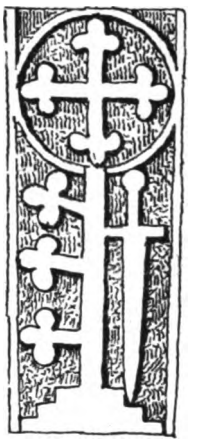

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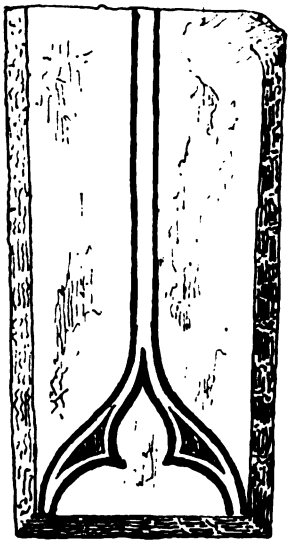

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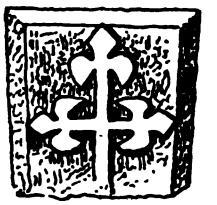

NO. 111.

IN THE CRYPT UNDER THE DORMITORY.

SCALE

0 3 6 9 12 INS.

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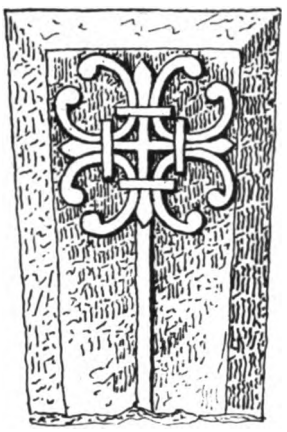
DURHAM



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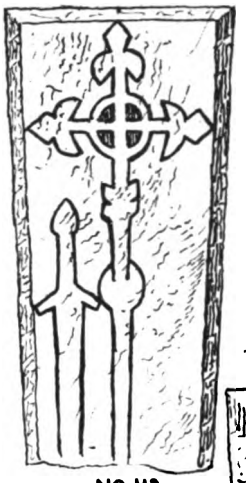

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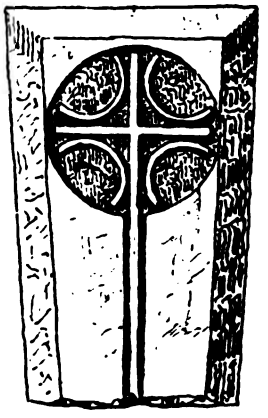
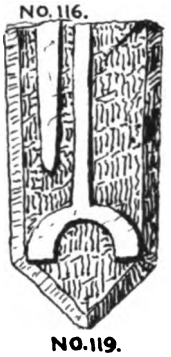


NO. 117.

NO. 115.

NO. 116.

NO. 118



NO. 119.

NO. 120.

IN THE CRYPT UNDER THE DORMITORY

SCALE

0 3 6 9 12 INS.

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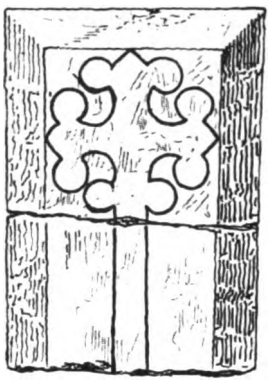
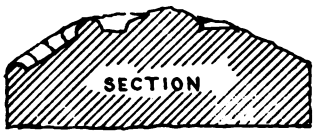
DURHAM.

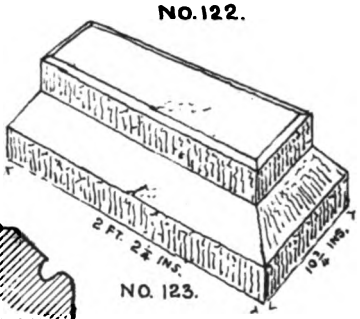
NO. 121.



NO. 122.

IN A WALL NEAR THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL





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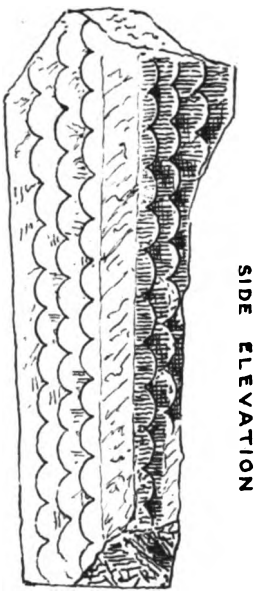
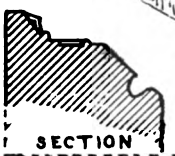
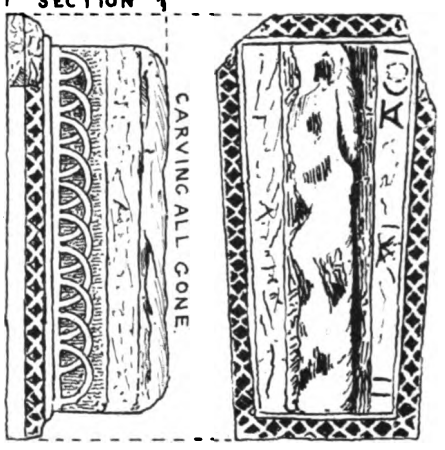




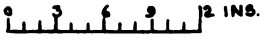


NO. 124.

NO. 125.

IN THE CRYPT UNDER THE DORMITORY.

SCALE



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